

Conclusions

This study deals with the perceptions and attitudes of business owners and managers towards access management. The team conducted a pseudo before-after study using businesses at comparison sites as a surrogate for the before period at treatment installations. A large sample of data was collected to determine the overall perceived effect of median installations, and in most cases sample sizes were large enough to do significance testing by individual site pairs. The major findings in this study are summarized below.

Economic Effects

There were no significant differences in self-reported revenue changes when comparing before and after survey responses from all sites. Even when looking at individual site pairs, it is reasonable to assume that businesses were generally operating at the same revenue they would have been operating had the median not been installed.

When looking at responses for decreased revenue after median installation, treatment sites seemed to indicate the median was a larger issue than the comparison sites, though not significant at the 95% confidence interval ($p = 0.093$). When partitioning the data further by business type, single-location local businesses had a significant difference in perceived revenue decrease due to the economy, noting that although the economy was the primary reason for decreased revenues, the median was the perceived cause in revenue decreases in many cases also. In addition, national chains were affected in a similar way, though not significantly different at the 95 percentile confidence interval ($p = 0.055$).

Overall, the rate of vacant or new businesses (a potential surrogate for turnover rate) at treatment sites was significantly higher ($p < 0.01$) than comparison sites.